

**NATURAL RESOURCES CONSERVATION SERVICE**

**ILLINOIS OPERATION AND MAINTENANCE**

**STRUCTURE FOR WATER CONTROL –**

**DRAINAGE WATER MANAGEMENT**

**Follow the operation and maintenance plan below to keep your drainage water management control structure functioning as intended:**

- Inspect after significant storm events and at least twice a year to identify repair and maintenance needs.
- Manage water control levels according to the Drainage Water Management Plan for the site.
- When drainage water is released from the water control structure, high velocity flow has the potential of damaging the tile line. To prevent damage, lower the water level in the structure gradually. For flash board structures, this can be accomplished by lowering the control height by no more than \_\_\_\_\_ inches at a time and waiting at least \_\_\_\_\_ minutes before removing more flash boards, or by raising all flash boards together to create an opening no greater than \_\_\_\_\_ inches high at the bottom of the structure.
- Keep an accurate record of rainfall, observation well readings, amount of irrigation water used, and yields. These can help to diagnose performance problems.
- Valves must be checked for proper functioning. Guards must remain in place to keep structures operating as planned. Promptly repair or replace damaged or inoperable components.
- Remove debris that may accumulate on, around or immediately upstream or downstream from the installed structure.
- Protect the structure from damage by farm equipment and livestock.
- Maintain vigorous growth of desirable vegetative coverings. This includes reseeding, fertilization, and mowing as needed. When applying fertilizer to vegetative cover, caution shall be used to prevent degradation to water quality.
- Repair any settlement or erosion that occurs along the pipe. If this problem persists, evaluate the pipe for leakage and erosion of the fill material into or along the pipe.
- Eradicate or otherwise remove all rodents or burrowing animals. Immediately repair any damage caused by their activity.
- Where applicable as part of the Drainage Water Management Plan, when applying manure to field, lowering the water elevation is recommended to prevent liquid manure entry to surface water. Manure application is recommended in summer or early fall when the water table is lower.
- Lock structure when not in use to prevent tampering and or vandalism.

Additional Details:

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